



Office of the Attorney General
State of Texas

DAN MORALES
ATTORNEY GENERAL

January 16, 1998

Ms. E. Cary Grace
Assistant City Attorney
City of Houston
Legal Department
P.O. Box 1562
Houston, Texas 77251-1562

OR98-0161

Dear Ms. Grace:

You ask whether certain information is subject to required public disclosure under the Texas Open Records Act, chapter 552 of the Government Code. Your request was assigned ID# 112822.

The Houston Police Department (the "department") received a request for a specific incident report. You claim that the requested information is excepted from disclosure under section 552.108 of the Government Code. We have considered the exception you claim and reviewed the submitted information.

Section 552.108, the "law enforcement exception," provides in relevant part as follows:

(a) [i]nformation held by a law enforcement agency or prosecutor that deals with the detection, investigation, or prosecution of crime is excepted from the requirements of 552.021 if: (1) release of the information would interfere with the detection, investigation or prosecution of crime

You state that the department "considers the incident's status open and the investigation ongoing." As the requested information relates to a pending criminal investigation, we find that release of the requested information would interfere with the detection, investigation, or prosecution of crime. *Houston Chronicle Publ'g Co. v. City of Houston*, 531 S.W.2d 177 (Tex. Civ. App.--Houston [14th Dist.] 1975), *writ ref'd n.r.e. per curiam*, 536 S.W.2d 559 (Tex. 1976) (court delineates law enforcement interests that are present in active cases).

However, "basic information about an arrested person, an arrest, or a crime" is not excepted from required public disclosure. Gov't Code § 552.108(c). Basic information is

the type of information that is considered to be front page offense report information even if this information is not actually located on the front page of the offense report. *See generally Houston Chronicle Publ'g Co. v. City of Houston*, 531 S.W.3d 177 (Tex. Civ. App.--Houston [14th dist.] 1975), *writ ref'd n.r.e. per curiam*, 536 S.W.2d 559 (Tex. 1976); Open Records Decision No. 127 (1976). Thus, except for basic information, the requested information is excepted from disclosure under section 552.108(a)(1). Although section 552.108 authorizes you to withhold the information from public disclosure, you may choose to release all or part of the information at issue that is not otherwise confidential by law. *See* Gov't Code § 552.007.

We are resolving this matter with an informal letter ruling rather than with a published open records decision. This ruling is limited to the particular records at issue under the facts presented to us in this request and should not be relied on as a previous determination regarding any other records. If you have any questions regarding this ruling, please contact our office.

Yours very truly,



Vickie Prehoditch
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

VDP/glg

Ref.: ID# 112822

Enclosures: Submitted documents

cc: Ms. Bea Medrano
3707 Birch Ville
Kingwood, Texas 77345
(w/o enclosures)